

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Discontent and Strike at the United Agricultural Cooperative (JZD) in Klecany	DATE DISTR.	21 June 1966
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The JZD in Klecany (N 50-11, E 14-25) has 21 members and covers 360 hectares of land. With this limited membership it has never been able to cope satisfactorily with its work and has had to rely on week-end working parties from the towns and on some nonmembers living in the area (e.g., wives of factory workers). The local volunteers turn up mostly at harvest time to help with seasonal crops. Since the summer harvest of 1954, local nonmembers have refused to work for the JZD because there is a constant shortage of fresh meat in the village and JZD members always receive preferential treatment when meat does appear and because JZD members also receive preferential treatment for themselves and their families when supplies of clothing arrive in the village. Because of the shortage of workers, 10 hectares of sugar beet rotted in the field during the winter, as well as 15 loads of dry clover which were never collected and had to be ploughed under. 25X1

2. The JZD in Klecany failed to fulfill the autumn plan for 1954 and to deliver the prescribed quotas of sugar beet, potatoes, and the second hay crop. However, during the autumn, the JZD cashier paid the members full wages for working units, although he should have put them on short pay and given them the balance only after prescribed quotas had been delivered at the end of the season. When the Agriculture Section of the ONV (District National Committee) discovered that the JZD was overpaying its members, they ordered each member to return 900 crowns, as the JZD had not fulfilled the autumn plan and they were therefore not entitled to full wages for "working units". The members refused to repay this sum and their chairman, Frantisek Sadlo, reported this to the ONV. The ONV thereupon informed Sadlo that the money was to be deducted from ensuing wages, with the result that the members would draw only 200 crowns monthly until the 900 crowns per head had been repaid. Because of this, 18 members of the JZD, including 3 members of the Communist Party, went on strike in December 1954. Only the chairman and two other members, all of them Communists, failed to strike. 25X1

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3. On the third day of the strike a representative of the Agricultural Section of the QNV arrived in the village and called a general meeting of the JZD members. Sixteen members attended. The spokesman for the strikers was Josef Spacek, who explained that it was not their fault that the autumn plan had not been fulfilled, as the JZD had been suffering from a shortage of labor throughout the season. He pointed out that on only two occasions had work brigades arrived from town and that nonmember villagers had not worked at all. He calculated that the present strength of the JZD was about one man to 18 hectares and said that they needed a minimum of 20 more people to work the land satisfactorily. He added that members would refuse to return to work until they received their normal pay, approximately 700 crowns per month, failing which they would leave the JZD and find other work.
4. Several other JZD members supported Spacek. The agricultural representative could give no definite answer but promised to do so the following day. He agreed that the JZD suffered from a shortage of labor but said that this was general throughout Czechoslovakia and blamed the local JZD Committee for not having tried to get more help, as there were 250 adults in the village. The QNV representative closed the meeting by pointing out that the Government had already started a big recruitment drive for farm labor for 1955 and said that from the Prague region 11,000 laborers would be transferred to agriculture in 1955 and a further 7,000 would be transferred between 1955 and 1957.
5. The following day the Chairman of the JZD told the men that they need not return the money until after the 1955 harvest. Should they produce more than the prescribed quota, the debt would be wiped out, but if they produced less, the debt would be deducted from their pay.

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